

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 5, 2009 for this Application has been carefully considered. Claims 1-25 were previously pending. Claims 2, 4-6, 12-13, 16 and 20-25 have been previously withdrawn. Claims 1 and 3 are currently amended, and Claims 7-11, 14-15 and 17-19 have been previously presented. Dependent Claims 26 and 27 are new. Support for the present Preliminary Amendment can be found at least in FIG. 13 and in paragraphs [0113]-[0116] of the present Application.

For example, paragraph [0116] of the present Application states: “In the present non-limiting example of Chinese, a set of keystrokes which meet this criteria [generating a symbol-input-end symbol] are comprised of the last keystroke causing a tone mark to be displayed, *followed by a keystroke on any other key but the Next key 812....*” (Emphasis added.)

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the Applicant-Initiated Examiner Interviews of October 14, 2009 and October 20, 2009.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

I. Objections to Claims 1 and 3

The Office Action objects to Claims 1 and 3. Claim 1 and Claim 3 have been amended. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Objection be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 7-11, 14-15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1, 3, 7-11, 14, 15 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as assertedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. (*See Office Action*, page 4.)

The Applicant amends Claim 1 to now recite: “wherein said set of trigger sequences of keystrokes has at least two parts: a) a first part of said sequence that corresponds to said post-conversion symbol; and b) a second part including said keystroke that will convert said sequence into a post-conversion symbol and at a same time display said post-conversion symbol, wherein said symbol-input-end symbol is generated as a result of a keystroke of any printable symbol that follows a tone mark printable symbol.”

The Applicant respectfully states that the above amendment addresses the rejection. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraphs, be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claims 1, 7, 10-11, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 7, 10-11, and 18-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,952,942 to Balakrishnan *et al.* (“Balakrishnan.”) Balakrishnan is generally directed to a method and device for input of text messages from a keypad. In Balakrishnan, a dictionary is searched for candidate combinations of characters corresponding to keys activated. The candidate combinations are rank ordered. (*See Abstract.*)

The Office Action cites to Balakrishnan, col. 6 lines 43-50 for a disclosure of “a plurality of symbol-input-end symbols each of which can be input by a keystroke on a key having a printable symbol assigned to it (col. 6, lines 43-50.)” (*See Office Action*, page 10.)

Col. 6, lines 43-50 of Balakrishnan state:

If the entry at step 190 is neither of keys 18 and 19 then logically it must be another of the keys of keypad 16, representing a digit 0-9 and step 197 is reached. This entry is interpreted to be the start of a new word or character. In step 197 the end-of-word mode ends and a new word (or character) begins. The program proceeds to step 140 for processing of the new digit stream representing the new word or character.

However, in Balakrishnan:

If, following entry of one or more digits, and display of the candidate matches on display 17, *key 19 is pressed, bearing the markings "#<<"*, the program proceeds to step 184. Step 184 represents the commencement of an end-of-word mode, terminating the entry of the current word and causing it to be displayed in text area 15 followed by a space. (*See Balakrishnan, col. 6, lines 21-26; emphasis added.*)

This is unlike Claim 1 as currently amended, which includes a plurality of symbol-input-end symbols, each of which can be input by a keystroke on one of a *plurality of keys* each having a printable symbol assigned to it. Instead, in Balakrishnan, as discussed above, a *single* key, key 19, is used to proceed to an end-of-word mode.

Furthermore, as claimed in Claim 1 as amended, the symbol-input-end symbol is generated as a result of a keystroke of *any* printable symbol that follows a tone mark printable symbol. Regarding Balakrishnan, however, the Applicant has only been able to find a disclosure of a *single* key to be used to proceed to an end-of-word mode, not a disclosure of a symbol-input-end symbol that is generated as a result of a keystroke of *any* printable symbol that follows a tone mark printable symbol. Furthermore, as discussed above, the cited section of Balakrishnan discloses a *single* key to be used to proceed to an end-of-word mode, not a disclosure of a symbol-input-end symbol that is generated as a result of a keystroke of *any* printable symbol *that follows a tone mark printable symbol*.

In light of the foregoing Amendment and remarks, the Applicant hereby respectfully states that a *prima facie* 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of independent Claim 1 is not sustained, nor a rejection of dependent Claims 7, 10-11, and 18-19 which depends upon Claim 1. Accordingly, the

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of dependent Claims 1 and 7, 10-11, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed to issue.

IV. Rejection of Claims 8, 9, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 8, 9, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Balakrishnan. Claims 8, 9 and 14 also depend upon Claim 1, which should be deemed in condition for allowance, as discussed above. Therefore, Claims 8, 9 and 14 should also be deemed in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of dependent Claims 8, 9, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed to issue.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1, 3, 7-11, 14-15, 17-19, and 26-27.

Regarding new Claims 26 and 27, the Applicant hereby authorizes the Director to charge the required fee for two claims in excess of 20 to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP. The Applicant hereby requests an extension of time of one (1) month for making this reply and hereby authorizes the Director to charge the required fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP. The Applicant does not believe that any additional fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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